

# Municipal Energy Resilience Program

The Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) will provide staff support, application and technical assistance, and funding to help communities become more energy resilient, reduce energy use and operating costs, and curb greenhouse gas emissions by promoting renewable energy, battery storage, electric vehicle charging, weatherization, thermal improvements, fuel switching, and enhanced building comfort in municipal buildings and facilities.

Passed on June 2nd, 2022, Act 172 provides \$45 million to promote dependable and sustainable connections to critical municipal services for all Vermonters. Existing buildings owned by cities, towns, fire districts, incorporated villages, and all other governmental incorporated units except for school districts, are eligible for MERP.

## Community Capacity Grants

These grants provide up to \$4,000 to support energy resilience community capacity building.

### Potential Uses:

- Hire a grant writer or consultant
- Host educational events
- Purchase promotional materials
- Start an energy committee

## Free Energy Assessments

Towns can apply for building assessments of any municipally owned building except schools. Two levels of assessment are available:

**Level 1:** Walk-through assessment. Takes ~1.5 hours and qualifies the building for MERP Implementation Funds.

**Level 2:** Investment grade audit. Takes ~4 hours and qualifies the building for MERP implementation funds and the state energy revolving loan. Requires building documents.

## Implementation Grants

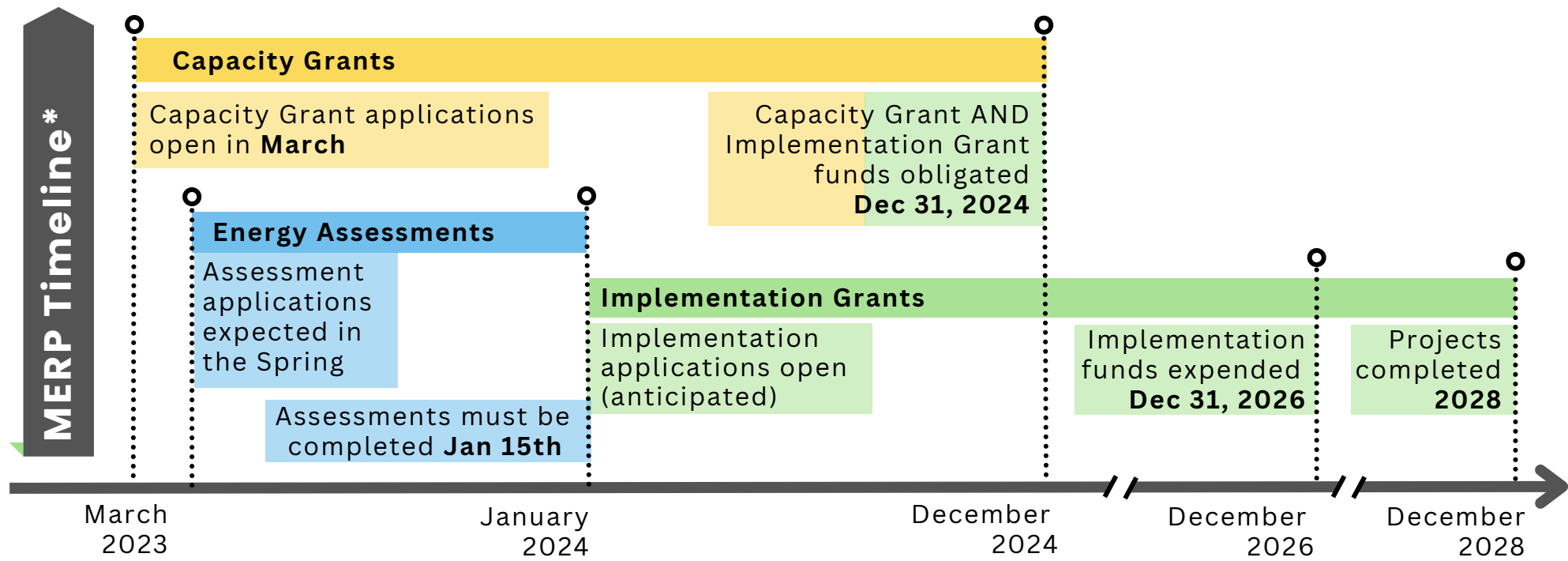
Each municipality can apply for a maximum of **\$500,000** for building renovation projects regarding weatherization, thermal efficiency, and supplementing or replacing fossil fuel heating systems with more efficient renewable or electric alternatives. Any municipal building that receives an energy assessment through the MERP program is eligible for this funding. These funds must be used for one project which can be split across several eligible buildings.



Contact your regional planning commission for more information and assistance!

# Town Eligibility and Prioritization

The program is designed to target communities most in need of improving their energy resilience, which traditionally are those with a high energy burden- defined as the proportion of income spent on energy, including heating, electricity, and transportation. Please visit Efficiency Vermont's webpage and view their 2019 report on energy burden in the state to learn more. Small, rural towns with less capacity will also be prioritized.



\*Timeline may be subject to changes